

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith EXCERPTS EDWARD WALSH ARTICLE WASHINGTON POST
WEDNESDAY MAY 11 HEADED "A FLEXIBLE CARTER DOMINATED
SUMMIT TALKS."

2. PRESIDENT CARTER FLEW HOME TONIGHT, NO LONGER QUITE
SUCH A MYSTERY TO WESTERN EUROPE AFTER HIS FIRST TRIP
ABROAD SINCE TAKING OFFICE. IT COULD HARDLY HAVE GONE
BETTER FOR HIM.

3. THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT WAS THE DOMINANT POLITICAL
FIGURE IN EUROPE THESE LAST FIVE DAYS, FIRMLY ESTABLISHING
HIMSELF AS THE LEADING SPOKESMAN NOT JUST OF THE UNITED
STATES BUT OF ITS ALLIES.

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4. PART OF THIS, OF COURSE, WAS SIMPLY BECAUSE CARTER IS
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH EUROPE LOOKS TO FOR
SUPPORT AND MILITARY PROTECTION. HE IS EXPECTED TO
DOMINATE.

5. PART OF IT WAS BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT ARRIVED HERE IN

A FAR STRONGER POSITION POLITICALLY THAN ANY OF HIS COUNTERPARTS.

6. PART OF IT STEMMED FROM THE CARTER POLITICAL STYLE-- HIS HABIT OF SHAKING HANDS WITH THE BOBBY OUTSIDE 10 DOWNING STREET--WHICH CAPTIVATED THE BRITISH PRESS, AND PRESUMABLY ITS READERS.

7. BUT BEYOND ALL THAT, IT WAS CLEAR AT THE END OF THE TRIP THAT CARTER CAME HERE PRIMARILY TO WIN FRIENDS AND THAT HE WAS WILLING TO BE FLEXIBLE, TO SMOOTH OVER POTENTIAL DIFFERENCES, IN PURSUIT OF THAT GOAL. WHERE COMPROMISE WAS THOUGHT NECESSARY, HE COMPROMISED, OR AT LEAST DID NOT PRESS THE OTHERS TO ACCEPT HIS POSITION ON SOME OF THE TOUCHIER ISSUES.

8. THE UNITED STATES PAVED THE WAY TOWARD THE CONGENIALITY THAT MARKED THESE MEETINGS WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT WAS RESUMING THE SALE OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO OTHER NATIONS. IT WAS A GESTURE, BUT AN IMPORTANT AND REASSURING ONE TO A WESTERN EUROPE THAT DEPENDS HEAVILY ON IMPORTED OIL FOR ENERGY AND LOOKS TO NUCLEAR POWER AS A WAY TO DIMINISH THAT DEPENDENCE.

9. AMID SPECULATION OF A PERSONAL FEUD, CARTER MET PRIVATELY WITH WEST GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT, AND SAID LATER THAT THEIR TALK "COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTER." ONE REASON FOR THIS, NO DOUBT, WAS THAT BY THEN CARTER HAD DECIDED NOT TO PRESS HIS OBJECTIONS TO THE WEST
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GERMAN SALE OF NUCLEAR POWER TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT TO BRAZIL.

10. IT WAS A TYPICAL CARTER TACTIC, THE RAISING OF AN OBJECTION, FOLLOWED BY WILLINGNESS TO BACK DOWN SOMEWHAT IN ORDER TO GAIN SOMETHING.

11. CARTER DEFERRED TO SCHMIDT ON ANOTHER ISSUE HE CARES ABOUT DEEPLY; HUMAN RIGHTS. CARTER BROUGHT THE SUBJECT UP ONLY ONCE, AND THEN BRIEFLY, DURING THE SUMMIT IN DEFERENCE TO SCHMIDT'S STRONG FEELING THAT ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON GETTING ETHNIC GERMANS OUT OF EASTERN EUROPE.

12. NOR WAS THERE AN AMERICAN ATTEMPT TO SET HIGHER RATES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH FOR THE STRONGER NATIONS, SOMETHING THE INFLATION-CONSCIOUS WEST GERMANS OPPOSED.

13. ADDRESSING THE MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY

ORGANIZATION MINISTERS HERE TODAY, CARTER WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO REASSURE EUROPE ABOUT HIS HUMAN RIGHTS STAND, TAKING A NOTICABLY SOFTER APPROACH THAN HE HAS AT HOME.

14. TODAY, THE LEADERS OF WESTERN EUROPE'S SMALLER COUNTRIES BEAT A PATH TO CARTER'S DOOR AFTER PERSUADING AMERICAN OFFICIALS AT THE LAST MINUTE TO GIVE THEM AT LEAST A FLEETING OPPORTUNITY--FIVE MINUTES IN THE CASE OF PREMIER CASTON THORN OF LUXEMBOURG--TO MEET CARTER FACE-TO-FACE.

15. BUT FOR ALL HIS PERSONAL AND POLITICAL SUCCESS OVER THE LAST FIVE DAYS, CARTER DID NOT LEAVE EUROPE FOR WASHINGTON WITH ALL THE QUESTIONS ANSWERED AND ALL THE DISPUTES SETTLED.

16. IT REMAINS UNCLEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, WHETHER THE TALKS HERE AND THE FOLLOWUP SESSIONS WILL RESULT IN MORE UNCLASSIFIED

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CAUTION IN THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY TO THE THIRD WORLD. (IF NOT, CARTER'S BACKING AWAY FROM THE ISSUE AT THE SUMMIT ONLY POSTPONED A SHOWDOWN IF HE IS TO STICK WITH HIS NONPROLIFERATION STAND.)

17. NOR IS IT BY ANY MEANS ASSURED, DESPITE ALL THE OPTIMISM AT THE END OF THE ECONOMIC TALKS, THAT THE GOALS OF INCREASING EMPLOYMENT WITHOUT INFLATION WILL BE REALIZED.

18. FINALLY, CARTER HAS MUCH PRESTIGE STAKED ON HIS ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT AND HIS TRIP TO GENEVA YESTERDAY TO MEET SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD POINTED UP THE IMPORTANCE HE PLACES ON IT. WHILE HIS TALKS WITH ASSAD WERE FRIENDLY, PROGRESS TOWARD A PEACE SETTLEMENT REMAINS MUCH IN DOUBT.

19. THESE ISSUES, AND OTHERS REMAIN TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE FUTURE. AT THE VERY LEAST, HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST VENTURE IN PERSONAL OVERSEAS DIPLOMACY APPEARED TO BE AN ENORMOUS POLITICAL SUCCESS. (END TEXT.) CHRISTOPHER

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